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TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

LESSON NO. 45

BUILDERS OF THE ADYTUM

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Lesson Forty-five

COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS

The last card of the major Tarot Keys, The World, is a symbol of cosmic consciousness, or Nirvana. The central fact of this experience is that he to whom it comes has first-hand knowledge of his identity with the One Power which is the Pivot and Source of the whole cosmos. He knows also that through him the power which governs and directs the universe flows forth into manifestation.

Words fail to give any adequate idea of this seventh stage of spiritual unfoldment. It must be left to your intuition to combine the suggestions of the picture with the meaning of the letter Tav (ת) which is assigned to this Key. Here is a picture of what you really are and of what the cosmos really is. The universe is the Dance of Life. The inmost, central SELF of you is the Eternal Dancer.

21 is the sum of the numbers from 0 to 6, so that, as a Key number in Tarot, it shows the completion or extension of the power of the principles represented by the seven Keys from 0 to 6. Thus there is a close affinity between Key 21 and Key 7, for as 21 is the consequence of adding the digits from 0 to 6, so 7 follows 6 in the numeral scale.

Furthermore, we shall find that Saturn is attributed to Key 21 and Saturn is the seventh of the planets known to the ancients. From Saturn's Hebrew name, "Shabbathai", we get the same meaning as from Sabbath, the day of rest or inertia and the seventh day of the week. In the Tarot tableau, moreover, Key 21 (3 x 7) is placed underneath Key 14 (2 x 7), and Key 14 is placed below Key 7. Thus the principle at work in Key 21 is represented by Key 7, and the secret of Key 7 is beautifully explained in the following words from Light on the Path:

"Stand aside in the coming battle, and though thou fightest, be not thou the warrior.

"Look for the warrior and let him fight in thee.

"Take his orders for the battle and obey them.

"Obey him not as though he were a general, but as though he were thyself and his spoken words were the utterance of thy secret desires; for he is thyself, yet infinitely wiser and stronger than thyself. Look for him, else in the fever and hurry of the fight thou mayest pass him; and he will not know thee unless thou knowest him. If thy cry reach his listening ear, then will he fight in thee and fill the dull void within. And if this is so, then canst thou go through the fight cool and unwearied, standing aside and letting him battle for thee. Then it will be impossible for thee to strike one blow amiss. But if thou look not for him, if thou pass him by, then there is no safeguard for thee. Thy brain will reel, thy heart grow uncertain, and in the dust of the battlefield thy sight and sense will fail, and thou wilt not know thy friends from thy enemies.

"He is thyself, yet thou art but finite and liable to error. He is eternal and is sure. He is eternal truth. When once he has entered thee and become thy warrior, he will never utterly desert thee, and at the day of the great peace he will become one with thee."

Read this quotation carefully. See how the warrior, the rider in the chariot, is identified with speech, the function associated with Key 7. Furthermore, since the rider is the ONE SELF, he is also the Hierophant, associated with hearing, and in this quotation his "listening ear" is specifically mentioned. It is from a Master of the Western School that this gem of occult wisdom was given to us; and those who are familiar with it will recall the fact that the two sections of the text are each divided into Twenty-One numbered paragraphs, preceded by an introduction bearing no number.

"He is thyself." The quest is for the SELF. The goal is the SELF. The knowledge is knowledge of the SELF. The power of the infinite and eternal SELF is the only power. The SELF is the ONE, working through the mysterious, glamorous activity of reflection and duality. All this is shown by 21, the number of this last Tarot Key.

The Hebrew letter Tav means "signature", or "mark". The actual mark is a cross having four equal arms, like the one on the banner of the angel in Key 20.

The Egyptian "Tau", corresponding to this letter, is said to have been a tally for measuring the depth of the Nile, also a square for testing right angles. Among the Hebrews, the letter Tav, written in the old alphabet as a cross like that on the breast of the High Priestess, was a sign of salvation (see Ezekiel 9:4). It was a symbol for salvation from death and a signature of eternal life.

As representing a signature, this letter implies security, pledge, guarantee, and so on. A signature makes a business instrument valid. Thus Tav indicates the final seal and completion of the Great Work, the experience which validates the hypothesis of the Unity of Being.

The great secret of the letter Tav is the point where its two lines cross. This point represents the inner center at which the One Identity has its abode.

Thus The Book of Formation says: "The only Lord God, the faithful King, rules over all from His holy habitation for ever and ever." And the same book indicates the place of that holy habitation thus: "The seven double consonants are analogous to the six dimensions: Height and Depth, East and West, North and South, and the Holy Temple that stands in the center which sustains them all."

This innermost point is in itself No-Thing, and thus The Clementine Homilies report St. Peter as saying: "The Place of God is That-which-is-not." Yet this latter text goes on to say:

"This, therefore, that starting from God, is boundless in every direction, must needs be the heart of Him Who is verily above all things in fashion, Who, wheresoever He be, is, as it were, in the middle of a boundless space, being the terminal of the All. Taking their origin therefore from him, the six extensions have the nature of unlimited things. Of which the one, taking its beginning from God, is displayed upwards toward the height, another downwards toward the depth, another to the right, another to the left, another in front, another behind . . . For at Him the six boundless lines do terminate, and from Him they take their boundless extension."

Read this quotation several times. Compare it with what is said in Lesson 44 and with Figure 3 in the diagram accompanying Lesson 18. Note that the abode of God is called the heart. It is also termed "That which-is-not", because it has no physical form or fashion, and might perfectly well be indicated by the zero sign which we attribute to the Fool. Yet it is by no means a nonentity, for this inner POINT is a positive metaphysical, or intellectual, reality. Hence, if you can grasp the idea that this place of God, or Holy Temple that stands in the center, is necessarily **everywhere**, you will see that it must be the center of your own being.

Hence to Tav is assigned also the Administrative Intelligence, of which it is written: "It is so called because it directs all the operations of the seven planets, associates their activities, and guides them all in their proper courses."

Remember that the occult planets are the same as the interior stars mentioned in connection with Key 17. Remember also that each of these planets corresponds to a Hebrew double letter and thus to one of the six directions, as follows:

Mercury, Beth, Height, Key 1; the Moon, Gimel, Depth, Key 2; Venus, Daleth, East, Key 3; Jupiter, Kaph, West, Key 10; Mars, Peh, North, Key 16; the Sun, Resh, South, Key 19; Saturn, Tav, the CENTER (the Holy Temple), Key 21.

Thus Tav represents the point of control at the CENTER or heart. Not the physical organ, understand, but **heart** in the sense of "midst, inmost core". To get at the heart of your personal existence is to enter the Palace of the King. There the ONE SELF is enthroned. There the Lord of the Universe has His abode. There is the central point of authority and

rulership, extending boundless influence throughout the cosmos. There, when the Great Work is accomplished, and the Father and the Son are in perfect union, the New Kingdom is established and shall have no end.

Concerning this an ancient alchemical treatise says:

"The Son ever remains in the Father,
And the Father in the Son.
Thus in divers things
They produce untold, precious fruit.
They perish nevermore,
And laugh at death.

By the Grace of God they abide forever,
The Father and Son, triumphing gloriously
In the splendor of their New Kingdom,
Upon the throne they sit,
And the face of the Ancient Master
Is straight way seen between them."

The Book of Lambspring

That CENTER within. Seek it diligently and you shall surely find it and find there the Stone of the Wise, so perfectly described in the quotation you have just read.

Key 21 summarizes the whole Tarot and so epitomizes all that can be put into any kind of symbolism concerning the culmination of the Great Work. Stamp the symbols deep upon your subconsciousness as you color them this week.

COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

KEY 21. THE WORLD

Green:	Wreath
Blue:	Background (leave blank the ellipses round spirals in hands).
Brown:	Animals (As in Key 10).
White:	Clouds, as in Key 10. Rays should be painted white, extending from the ellipses round the spirals, into the blue of the background.
Blonde:	Hair on man and dancer; beak of eagle.
Violet:	Kaph-shaped veil round body of the dancer.
Red:	Binding at top and bottom of wreath, wreath on head of dancing figure.